COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH)
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION (HMD)

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"Environmental and Public Health through leadership, partnership and science"

CHIEF's NOTES

By Michael Dorsey, HMD Chief

The international business community has since the early 1990's supported the development of standardized management systems for environmental protection. In 1996, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) developed the "Standard for Environmental Management Systems", commonly called ISO 14001. Although ISO 14001 is not the only environmental management system (EMS) used by the international business community, it is probably the most highly recognized. An EMS is, in theory, a set of processes that enables an organization to reduce its environmental impacts and increase its operating efficiency. EMSs may provide the following benefits to businesses that incorporate them into their corporate structure:

- Improve environmental performance;
- Enhance compliance;
- Prevent pollution and conserve resources;
- Reduce and mitigate environmental risks;
- Enhance their customer base and product markets;
- Increase efficiency and reduce costs;
- Enhance their public image;
- Achieve and improve employee awareness of environmental issues and responsibilities; and,
- Qualify for recognition or incentives.

In May of 2002 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published their *"Environmental Management System Implementation Policy"* that encourages regulated businesses to use effective environmental management systems that focus on compliance, pollution prevention, and public outreach. USEPA has further committed to EMS by incorporating into its policy the goal of implementing EMS at appropriate USEPA facilities.

In 1998, the Legislature authorized the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) to establish a pilot project to evaluate the potential of EMS in California. The EMS Pilot Project goal was to understand whether and how EMSs could help improve public health and environmental protection in California. Ten regulated businesses were selected to participate in the pilot project. The results of the pilot project were published on January 23, 2003 in the *"Report on Cal/EPA Environmental Management System Project."*

During this next fiscal year the HMD will review USEPA's and Cal/EPA's reports and policies on EMS and meet with various stakeholders to evaluate how to incorporate EMS policies into HMD's regulatory oversight and day-to-day operations. We will keep you posted of our progress in the following issues of this newsletter.

HMD's FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Ron Yonemitsu

Ron Yonemitsu is the Senior Health Physicist for HMD's Radiological Health Program. After graduating from the University of Washington with a mechanical engineering degree Ron started his strange career path into the radiation field.

This started at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Working on US Navy nuclear submarines introduced Ron to health physics (aka nuclear stuff). Work there was challenging but he was tired of hitting his head on bulkheads.

A "true" health physics position opened up in Yorktown, VA with the US Navy. Ron packed his bags and traded palm trees for pine trees. This is where Ron learned to inspect radioactive material users and radiation-producing machines (by the way, this is what the Specialists in HMD's radiology program do for a living).

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Ron Yonemitsu

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These experiences were great and Ron traveled all over the country and to a few foreign countries where the Navy and Marine Corps had radiation safety programs.

From visiting the many Navy and Marine Corps installations in the county is how Ron got to know about San Diego. He liked the weather and the people during his many visits. He set his eye on San Diego as his next home but he did require that he work for an exciting company with exceptional co-workers. Ron was tired of traveling and knew things were bad when flight attendants recognized him. Then the Senior Health Physicist position opened up, he applied for the job and, well, the rest is history.

Since joining the HMD in October 2002, Ron has been introduced to many new aspects of health physics such as the Biotech industry, medical institutions and hazard response.

Managing Hazardous Waste Containers – Best Management Practices

By Manon E. Ehrhart
Eenvironmental Health Specialist II

Generators of hazardous waste can store their waste in containers until it is time for the waste to be hauled by a licensed hazardous waste hauler. A container is a portable device, so permanently mounted tanks, trenches, floor sumps and waste piles are NOT considered containers.

Before a generator of waste can store hazardous waste in a container, the waste must be characterized. Characterization helps the generator decide on the container type, labeling requirements and other storage considerations.

How can waste be characterized? Waste can be characterized by sampling and laboratory analysis, or the generator can apply "knowledge of process," which combines an evaluation of the process used to produce the waste, the chemical substances that constitute the waste and any other materials involved in the waste generation. For example, an oil-based paint product can by "knowledge of process" be considered flammable and toxic due to the ignitable solvents commonly used in oil-based paint formulations. Likewise, knowledge of the pigments that make up the paint can indicate that it can be toxic, due to compounds such as lead chromate or zinc compounds.

What do we test for? Laboratory analysis is straightforward. By using the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the products that make up the waste, a generator can hire a local certified laboratory to analyze it for the hazardous characteristics or constituents that would most likely be present in the waste stream. An example of testing would be to request the laboratory to test for "California heavy metals" in a paint booth filter sample you have collected for analysis.

When using "knowledge of process" to characterize waste and find out if it is hazardous, waste generators must be aware that usually chemical constituents representing at least 1% by weight will be listed on the MSDS. Chemicals in quantities less than 1% can still pose a significant health or environmental hazard to be considered hazardous waste. It is also important to re-evaluate the knowledge of process when components of the process vary or ingredients change. Besides the MSDS, attention must be given to markings on the container. If it comes in a plastic container, it is likely that the contents are corrosive. To prevent unnecessary exposure, workers must always check with their supervisors before handling any unmarked or unknown drums.

What wastes require special handling? It is extremely important to keep incompatible or reactive wastes in separate containers. Incompatible or reactive wastes must be stored in a manner to prevent explosion or fire. Special handling procedures, storage cabinets, or safety equipment may be required to manage wastes that are:

1) Corrosive
2) Combustible
3) Flammable
4) Oxidizers
5) Poisons
6) Toxics
7) Reactive

It is important to check with the local fire department before accepting or storing hazardous materials, to determine if the regulations they enforce require special handling or storage. Most fire departments consider hazardous waste to be in the same category as hazardous materials, so storage regulations apply equally for materials and waste.

Keeping containers tightly closed is very important to prevent spills, and if outdoors, to keep rain out of the container. Storing your containers on concrete or a containment pallet is a best management practice to prevent inadvertent spills or leaks from contaminating nearby soil or storm drains. Containment pallets for barrels can be found at many safety supply companies in California.

New Requirement for UST Testing

By Cecilia Diaz,
Eenvironmental Health Specialist II

Local Guidance letter 162-1 has recently been issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to provide clarification regarding the Installation and Monitoring requirements for Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) installed on or after July 1, 2003, and those installed on or after July 1, 2004. Installation and monitoring provisions were initially introduced as a part of Assembly Bill (AB) 2481, effective January 1, 2003.

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New Requirement for UST Testing

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However, two requirements of AB 2481 have been given extended deadlines. These requirements were revised and signed into law on July 7, 2003 as Assembly Bill 1702, and are effective immediately.

The following summarizes the installation and monitoring requirements for USTs installed on or after July 1, 2003, and are still applicable as part of AB 2481:

- As per Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 25290.2(a), primary and secondary containment must be product tight, meaning "impervious to the liquid and vapor of the substance that is contained, or is to be contained, so as to prevent the seepage of the substance from the containment". For systems installed prior to July 1, 2003, "product tight" referred to the liquid phase only.

- Components of the secondary containment systems must be installed in such a way as to prevent water intrusion into the system by precipitation, infiltration, or surface runoff. The secondary containment must be kept dry in order for a release to be detected and contained. [HSC §25290.2(c)(3).]

- In accordance with HSC §25290.2(d), UST systems must be equipped with a continuous monitoring system that would detect the entry of the hazardous substance stored in the primary containment into the secondary containment. The monitoring system must be capable of detecting water intrusion as well.

- After July 1, 2003, the definition for piping has been expanded to include fill pipes, vent lines, and vapor recovery piping, which will be required to have secondary containment. [HSC § 25290.2(j)].

- In accordance with HSC §25290.2 (i), before a UST system can become operational, it must be tested by one of the following three test methods:
  1. An inert gas pressure test certified by a third party and approved by the SWRCB,
  2. Enhanced leak detection (ELD),
  3. Testing that is equivalent to ELD, with SWRCB approval.

Although there are three testing options, Enhanced Leak Detection is the method that has been used to date. Thus far, the ELD requirement has been met with the use of the Enhanced Tracer Tight® test. Be advised that a UST tightness test will no longer be required at installation.

Assembly Bill 1702 extends the deadline for two requirements of AB 2481, to July 1, 2004:

- According to HSC § 25290.1(e), the below grade interstitial space of the tank and product piping must be maintained under constant vacuum or pressure. This monitoring method satisfies the requirement that a breach in the primary or secondary containment be detected before the stored substance, in liquid of vapor form, is released to the environment. LG 162-1 provides further details for monitoring single wall piping transitions. With a continuously monitored UST system, periodic secondary containment testing is no longer required for the portions under a constant pressure or vacuum, or have liquid filled interstitial spaces. Additionally, primary piping will no longer require an annual tightness test.

- Secondly, if a system's entire piping length is double walled and continuously monitored using vacuum, pressure or a liquid interstitial, the sumps and Under Dispenser Containment for these systems must have sensors capable of detecting both a liquid and vapor phase release from the primary containment. [HSC §25290.1 (d).]

- Note: USTs installed on or after July 1, 2004 will still be subject to the AB 2481 requirements for all new USTs installed on or after July 1, 2003.

Please contact Robert Rapista, with the San Diego Department of Environmental Health, at (619) 338-2207 if you have questions regarding the new UST installation requirements.

You can also review LG 162-1 in its entirety for further details and frequently asked questions.

LG 162-1 is available electronically at:
http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust.

Blue Tag, Red Tag, Old Tag, New Tag, Blue Sticker, No Sticker...

By Jim Henderson,
Env. Health Specialist III

Underground storage Tanks (UST) are no longer required to display an upgrade compliance sticker "blue sticker" or attach an upgrade tag "blue tag" to UST fill pipes. On January 1, 2003, California Health and Safety Code Section 25284 was amended to remove the requirement for upgrade certificates, as the 1998 upgrade deadline has long passed.

A new requirement of Assembly Bill 2481 authorizes local agencies to issue "red tag" to UST systems having significant violations. The intent of the "red tag" is to prohibit deliveries to such UST systems. The State Water Resources Control Board is currently developing regulations to implement this new "red tag" authority.

FIRST ANNUAL HMD GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS!!

By Gloria Estolano
Environmental Health Specialist III

Community service is something HMD's employees do every day. Looking for a way to further serve our community, Todd Burton and Dave Cammall organized a golf tournament to benefit a local charity. The tournament attracted 37 players who had a great time while contributing to a noble cause. Those who didn't play were also able to contribute by participating in a raffle that had all sorts of enticing prizes donated by local businesses.

The $1,400 collected at the event will benefit the children at the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation & Polinsky Center. Greg Cox, Chairman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors recognized Todd's and Dave's efforts with a letter of appreciation.

The success of this event has DEH and San Diego Fire departments already making plans to co-sponsor the event next year, when an even bigger turnout is expected.

New Inspection Frequencies for businesses in San Diego County

By Jim Henderson,
Environmental Health Specialist III

The Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division is the CUPA for San Diego County. The HMD conducts routine compliance inspections of regulated businesses to ensure environmental protection. The mandated inspection frequencies are based on regulatory requirements set by the state of California for the Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA).
San Diego has self-imposed inspection frequency goals that, while meeting the regulatory mandates, also reflect the workload, number of inspectors, number of regulated facilities and hazards associated with different types of facilities.
A recent modification has been made to change the routine 14-month inspection schedule for most regulated facilities to 18 months and to change the inspection frequency of plating shops from 14-months to 12-months.
These changes allow the HMD to increase inspection frequencies where it is needed and manage increased numbers of regulated businesses without hiring additional inspectors or sacrificing environmental protection. Currently, the inspection frequencies for regulated businesses as described below:

The inspection frequency for plating shops was changed from 14 to 12 months.

Type of Facility	Inspection Frequency
Underground Storage Tank sites	12 months
Large Quantity Generators of Medical Waste	12 months
Plating Shops	12 months
Facilities with a single hazardous material or waste stream*	24 months
Hazardous waste treatment (tiered permitting) facilities**	36 months
CalARP facilities-CalARP audit**	36 months
Small Quantity Generators of Medical Waste	36 months

* This inspection frequency is for the specific CUPA element

** Onsite Treatment and CalARP– these inspections are incorporated into the routine inspections.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY WILDFIRES 2003

In the aftermath of October's devastating wildfires, the County government is dedicated to ensuring resident's safety, and to helping victims restore their homes, property, security, peace of mind, and quality of life. For important recovery information please visit:
http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/enterprise_portal/announcements/san_diego_county_fires.htm .
You will find information that will update you on fire-related developments and make you aware of various government and community resources that can help in this difficult time.
Other useful links: http://www.sdcdeh.org/firestorm_recovery
http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/deh/hmd/disaster.html

Hazardous Materials Incident Notification Agreement between the County/City of San Diego and the City of Tijuana

By Aura Quecan, Environmental Health Specialist II

The Agreement for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in the Border Area, known as the ***La Paz Agreement***, has the objective of protecting, improving and conserving the environment in the United States-Mexico border region. In 1983, the governments of the United States and Mexico signed this treaty that became effective in 1984. The La Paz Agreement or ***El Tratado de La Paz,*** as it is known in México, is divided into twenty-three articles and five annexes. Annex II addresses the agreement of cooperation between the two nations in the efforts to prevent pollution due to hazardous materials.

Article II, of Annex II, establishes the agreement between the governments of the United States and Mexico to develop a Joint Contingency Plan for hazardous materials incidents along the border area. The agreement refers to the development of Sister City Plans for sister cities along the border from California through Texas. In addition, the plan allows for the improvement of communication and coordination between the sister cities in the event of a hazardous materials incident. Better binational communication will improve emergency preparedness and response for intentional or accidental hazardous materials releases that may impact public health, property, or the environment.

There are fourteen pairs of sister cities along the US-Mexico International Border. To this date, ten pairs of sister cities have developed and signed Joint Contingency Plans. California and Baja California are currently working on their plan. Even though having these plans is a relatively new project, the city of Tijuana and the County and City of San Diego already have had informal communication via telephones and beepers during hazardous materials incidents. This resulted in the exchange of binational technical support between the County/City of San Diego and the City of Tijuana during past hazardous materials incidents.

For the past year, representatives of federal, state and local agencies from the United States and Mexico have come forward to formalize the existing communication between San Diego and Tijuana. To accomplish this, a Binational Prevention and Emergency Response Plan for the San Diego-Tijuana border area has been developed.

The objectives of the plan are to effectively use the resources available, reduce pollution incidents, and protect public health, safety and the environment during hazardous materials incidents. Furthermore, the plan will formalize the communication, coordination and cooperation between the members of the planning and emergency response community in San Diego and Tijuana.

The Binational Prevention and Emergency Response Plan aims to achieve these specific objectives:

(a) Identification, development and exchange of a binational database of chemical hazards along the border area;

(b) Establishment of specific elements for a Binational Mutual Aid Request;

(c) Development of a binational notification system for incidents related to hazardous materials;

(d) Application of the Standardized Emergency Management System by the response agencies in San Diego and Tijuana; and,

(e) Binational coordination for training, joint exercises and technical assistance. For the purpose of this Plan, the border region is defined as the two-mile radius north and south of the international border.

The Binational Prevention and Emergency Response Plan's Memorandum of Understanding between the County/City of San Diego and the City of Tijuana was signed at the Tijuana City Hall on October 24, 2003.

Community Change, Not Just a Dream

By: Ellen Schulte, Pollution Prevention Specialist

Sherman Heights, a low income community, once known as a high crime area in Southeast San Diego, has had some positive changes recently. Although some of this positive change could be due to the new ballpark development occurring on its northern border, a great deal of it has come from within. Through tireless commitment of extraordinary community members like Mr. James Justus, a once crime ridden community is now one of San Diego's emerging gems. Sixteen years ago, when Mr. Justus moved his family into a "new" 1887 dilapidated Victorian home in Sherman Heights and relocated his thriving automotive repair shop from La Jolla to a place on Imperial Avenue, he didn't know that he would come to play a key role in polishing this "jewel-in-the-rough" community.

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Community Change, Not Just a Dream

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He not only had plans for home renovation, but a dream of a thriving community around him.

And how did Mr. Justus begin this process of community change? Early on he joined a grass roots effort as a team member for the **Sherman Heights Revitalization Team**. He worked to have a new Central Division Police Station relocated to Sherman Heights on the corner of 25th and Imperial Avenue, transforming a formerly notorious drug dealing hangout and placing a strong public safety presence in the community.

Mr. Justus has been a long time member of the **Automotive Service Council** (ASC) and now serves as the Chapter 24 Treasurer. Through the ASC, Mr. Justus has been a strong proponent of pollution prevention and increasing awareness within the automotive profession. He recently served as a tester in a pilot study for the new San Diego Area Green Business Program. He agreed to pilot test the new Automotive Checklist in his shop and he scored high in areas of environmental compliance, pollution prevention, water and energy conservation, solid waste reduction and recycling. Recently, he helped coordinate an Automotive Pollution Prevention Workshop held in the community and joined his employees in attending this training to learn about reducing waste and promoting safer substitutes.

Mr. Justus is involved with the **Barrio Logan Environmental Justice Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Task Force**, a group formed through a U.S. EPA demonstration project to raise awareness of underserved communities on environmental issues that may impact children's health.

As President of the **Inner City Business Association** (ICBA), Mr. Justus helped establish a **Maintenance Assessment District** for the commercial sessment District designation was no easy task and involved rousing the community to pass, by public vote, an increase in the commercial property tax. The Assessment District has since obtained grants for store front improvements, provided convenient public trash receptacles, increased sidewalk sweeping, posted banners for special events and planted over 300 trees! The ICBA was instrumental in partnering with the **Sherman Heights Community Center**, located at 2260 Island Avenue. The Center offers many opportunities for enrichment such as the **Youth Leadership Programs** available to the children of this urban, working community and in addition, senior citizen activities.

As a Center Board member, Mr. Justus helped secure funding from major foundations such as the San Diego Foundation, Target and the Annie Casey Foundation to assure the center will be up and running for some time. Mr. Justus's commitment to children doesn't stop there; he also serves as Branch Board member for the **William J. Oaks Boys and Girls Club** and helped to designate Sherman Heights as San Diego's official Soap Box Derby venue. Mr. Justus also escorted this summer's Soap Box derby winner, an 11 year old from Sherman Heights, to the National event in Ohio.

The **National Soap Box Derby** event in Ohio proved to be a pinnacle for his tireless commitment to children's health and his keen environmental awareness developed through years of promoting pollution prevention in the automotive field. In Soap Box Derby racing, a standard requirement is to have weights available for standardizing the weight of the carts for a fair competition. These weights can be made from tin or stainless steel but most commonly are made from lead, a highly toxic metal that affects children's mental development and causes other detrimental health effects. Generally these lead weights are painted, but many times are not. Mr. Justus noticed how the young competitors routinely handled these lead weights and became very concerned. He immediately notified the event officials about the potential for lead poisoning. He also raised concern for the home practice of melting the lead to make weights in preparation for the competition (recently the US Environmental Protection Agency awarded a grant in Michigan to educate the public about the hazards of melting lead). Pursuing this new cause, Mr. Justus' may now be taking on changing the national community!

As Mr. Justus continues to find ways to be involved and improve the health of his community, we too may realize our own community dream. Although it may be tough to follow Mr. Justus' Herculean efforts, we all have an opportunity to make a difference. Mr. Justus' example shows us that success can be obtained through awareness, commitment and perseverance.

Making the Hazardous Materials Plan Check Program Work

By Ed Slater, Supervising Env. Health Specialist

Veronica Garmo is the Hazardous Materials Division's (HMD) Hazardous Materials Plan Check Specialist. She is responsible for ensuring compliance with Chapter 6.95 of the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), for facilities that are subject to Hazardous Materials Business Plan requirements.

To accomplish this, businesses obtaining building permits for new construction or tenant improvements are screened for hazardous material usage prior to granting authorization to obtain a building permit or a certificate of final occupancy.

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Making the Hazardous Materials Plan Check Program...

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Building departments throughout the County are required to have businesses obtain clearance from the Hazardous Materials Division and the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) when constructing new facilities or doing tenant improvements. To obtain this clearance, businesses complete a Hazardous Materials Questionnaire (HMQ).

When the HMQ is received, it is evaluated to determine if business needs to complete a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) or update an existing one. If so, the business enters the AB 3205 process. The Hazardous Materials Plan Check Specialist guides businesses through the process and works with them to ensure they know what is required.

In an effort to keep cities aware of these requirements, over the past 20 months Veronica Garmo has met with building department staff in all 18 incorporated cities in the county. Veronica presents an overview of Hazardous Materials Plan Check procedures with an emphasis on use of the Hazardous Materials Questionnaire. These meetings include building department counter staff, building inspectors, deputy fire marshals, APCD specialists, and HMD area specialists. She recently met with building department staff in San Marcos, Oceanside, and Vista. The North County HMD office has seen an increase in the number of new businesses brought into HMD's permitting and inspection program as a direct result of these meetings. Area cities also benefit by ensuring that new businesses will properly manage hazardous materials and any hazardous waste that is generated.

Veronica's efforts are already yielding benefits by providing HMD's Area Specialists with personal contacts from building and fire departments across the county. These contacts are very useful when inspection referrals are necessary. The resulting partnership has proved effective in gaining compliance at a number of auto repair businesses in San Marcos. In addition, Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement officers in these cities can now make direct contact with HMD specialists to make referrals and to ask for assistance in resolving compliance issues in their own programs.

Cities that actively participate in this program benefit by having new businesses that have all the necessary information to properly manage hazardous materials.

New Data Management System for the Hazardous Materials Division and the Department of Environmental Health

By Matt Trainor, Supervising Env. Health Specialist

In July of 2002, the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) and the Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) launched a new data management system called KIVA. This system replaced an aged mainframe computer system where data entry interfaces were inefficient and increasingly expensive to maintain. Several systems were reviewed before the KIVA system was selected.

KIVA has specific advantages over other software products considered:

- Linked diverse permits and other information together
- Automated billing and permit expiration
- Allowed direct data entry and immediate availability of information
- Supported user modification of basic functions without advanced computer skills
- Expanded to include Internet access to public
- Cost less than some other systems due to common platform ("off-the-shelf" software)
- Committed to develop custom modules for CUPA data elements

Linking permits back to a common assessor parcel number (APN) is one of the key advantages in the new system. Now County employees using the KIVA system can see a full range of permits issued for a given parcel. County Departments currently using KIVA include the Department of Planning and Land Use (Planning, Building, Code Enforcement, and Public Works Divisions) and the DEH (Hazardous Materials, Food & Housing, Land & Water Quality, Site Assessment, and Community Health Divisions). As the system has been implemented over the past year in DEH, information about septic systems, underground tanks, restaurants, building permits, water wells, and hazardous materials have been linked together in a way that can be extremely valuable. Previously, these types of permits and the related information had been maintained in separate data systems with little or no commonality.

Locating and assigning assessor parcel numbers (APN) for each permit was a major hurdle in implementing KIVA. HMD began using a student worker with GIS experience to identify parcels a full year before KIVA was launched.

Initially, only 50% of permit addresses could be matched to APN addresses from the County Assessor's database. Using additional mapping applications and a site-by-site examination for unmatched addresses, HMD has been able to link APNs to 96% of all active non-military permits and 84% of all inactive non-military permits.

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New Data Management System for the Hazardous Materials Division ...

(Continued from page 7)

APNs for permits on military reservations are of limited value so the assignment of APNs to these permits has been given a very low priority. DEH and HMD continue to review and check APN assignments for new and existing permits, as this is a key to the success of the KIVA system.

Prior to implementation of KIVA, DEH had to convert data from nearly 50,000 permits to fit into the new KIVA system. DEH considered using outside contractors for this conversion but decided to do the bulk of the data conversion with existing resources. By temporarily shifting some job responsibilities, DEH was able to convert the data into a KIVA compatible format with limited support from KIVA and the County Information Technology contractor. Using this approach, DEH was able to preserve critical information and quality control of the conversion at a minimum cost.

The data conversion was a major undertaking and many DEH employees worked alternate work schedules with extended hours to make the conversion a success. As with all data conversions, there were problems and errors. Over the past year, DEH and HMD have been working out these problems. The data entry into KIVA is working well. Immediate availability of information has improved communication between inspectors, data processors, and cashiers. Printing permits and invoices on standard paper has allowed more automation in mailing invoices and permits. More flexibility in assigning permit status has allowed DEH to temporarily suspend invoicing when there is a dispute or significant question about the invoice.

For more information about hazardous materials contact the Hazardous Materials Duty Desk at 619-338-2231

There are still a number of automated billing improvements to be made. DEH is currently evaluating a new version of KIVA, which should expedite these improvements. This new version should be launched by December of 2003.

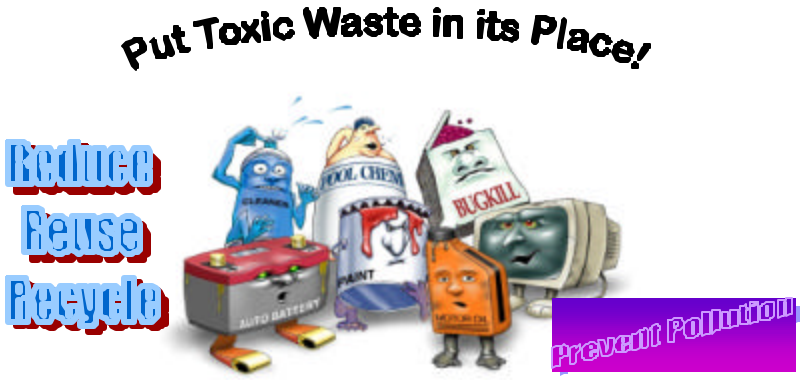
Information about hazardous materials is an extremely valuable and useful tool. Businesses under permit with HMD and HMD inspectors spend a significant amount of time collecting and verifying this information. The public, government agencies, and emergency responders use this information to make key decisions related to hazardous materials.

Now the core data system has been established in KIVA; HMD continues to look at ways to improve the efficiency/accuracy of data collection and ways to share this information.

Future plans include automating data entry, providing better information and services by Internet to the public, and improving information sharing with Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts.

HMD looks forward to the day where all interested members of the community will be able to log on to the Internet and find pertinent information about the hazardous materials and wastes being handled in San Diego County. With this in mind, HMD's employees keep working and every day get closer to achieving that goal.

NEW HMD STICKERS PROMOTE PROPER HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT



If you use, discard, or handle motor oil, oil filters, batteries, solvents, paint thinner, paint, antifreeze, or other chemicals, you are responsible for proper disposal. These substances are "hazardous" and when discarded or spilled become hazardous waste.

Reuse, recycle, or reduce the use of these products. Do not dispose of hazardous waste to the ground, trash, landfill, sewer, storm drain, or any other unauthorized point. Hazardous wastes must be disposed of at State-authorized facilities only. Violating the Hazardous Waste Laws can result in imprisonment and fines of up to $250,000 per day and for each incident. Do your part to prevent pollution!

For more information about hazardous waste, call the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division at (619) 338-2231 or visit our website at http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/deh/hmd/index.html

OBTAIN THE STICKERS FROM YOUR AREA SPECIALIST!
ALSO AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Current and past issues of the Environmental Press are available online at:
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